

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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TAGS: PFOR, PBRO SV NO

SUBJ: CVALBARD BILATERALS

REF: (A) STATE 236750, (B) OSLO 4739

SUMMARY: NORWEGIANS HAVE PROPOSED PROGRAM AND AGENDA FOR BILATERAL SVALBARD MEETING. ONE MAJOR ITEM WHICH STILL REMAINS UNCERTAIN IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH NORWEGIANS WILL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF ALTERNATIVE REGIMES FOR MANAGING SVALBARD CONTINENTAL SHELF RESOURCES. FOREIGN OFFICE PLANS CHECK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND ON THIS ISSUE. THEY ALSO PLAN TO PROVIDE PROPOSED AGENDA TO HIM FOR POSSIBLE USE IN HIS TALKS WITH SECRETARY SEPT 30. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF MET SEP 28 WITH MFA POLAR ADVISOR BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN TO DISCUSS PROGRAM FOR UPCOMING SVALBARD BILATERAL TALKS. NOR. WEGIANS PROPOSE PROGRAM AS FOLLOWS:

MONDAY OCT 11

0900 USE DELEGATION CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND

FOR GREETING AND EXCHANGE OF REMARKS.

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100-1230-BOTH DELEGATIONS ASSEMBLE AT MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
FOR BRIEFING ON STRATEGIC AND MILITARY SITUATIONS
IN BARENTS SEA BY MOD UNDER SECRETARY HOLST.
FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION. NORWEGIANS
WOULD LIKE US REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE ANY REMARKS
US WISHES TO MAKE ON STRATEGIC PICTURE, FOLLOWED
BY QUESTIONS FROM NORWEGIANS.

1300 WORKING LUNCH GIVEN BY FOREIGN MINISTER.

1500-1630 WORKING SESSION AT FOREIGN MINISTRY.

TUESDAY OCT 13

100-1230 DISCUSSIONS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

1500-1630 CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSIONS AS REQUIRED.

2. BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN SUGGESTED FOLLOWING TENTATIVE AGENDA:
FOLLOWING INITIAL EXCHANGE ON STRATEGIC AND DEFENSE SITUATION
AT MOD, AGENDA WOULD CONTINUE WITH NORWEGIANS (A) REVIEWING
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON SVALBARD, INCLUDING UPGRADING RELATED TO
SOVIET HELICOPTERS; (B) OUTLINING STATUS AND EVALUATION OF
NORWEGIAN-SOVIET BILATERAL CONTINENTAL SHELF NEGOTIATIONS,
WHERE RECENT SOVIET MISSILE TESTING IS SEEN AS NEW FACTOR.
US SIDE WOULD (C) PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION
ON US POLICY TOWARD SVALBARD AND (D) OUTLINE ANY SCIENTIFIC OR
OTHER PROJECTS WE MAY BE CONSIDERING FOR SVALBARD AREA,
INCLUDING STATUS OF NANSEN DRIFT STATION. WITH THESE LARGEY
INFORMATION ITEMS CLEAR DISCUSSION SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO
NORWEGIAN EXPOSITION ON (E) THEIR PLANNING FOR SVALBARD
FISHERY REGIME AND (F) NORWEGIAN REACTIONS TO QUESTIONS RAISED
IN US MAY AIDE-MEMOIRE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGEMENT AND
EXPLOITATION OF SHELF RESOURCES ON BASIS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PARTIES.

3. PARTICIPANTS FOR THE NORWEGIAN SIDE WILL BE MUCH THE SAME
AS IN DECEMBER BILATERALS. THEY WILL PROBABLY BE LED BY
MFA SECRETARY GENERAL SVERRER GJELLUM AND INCLUDE MFA POLITICAL
DIRECTOR VIBE, LEGAL DIRECTOR ELIASSEN, BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN
AND PLANNING UNDER DIRECTOR AND SOVIET EXPERT STENSETH. THERE
WILL ALSO BE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND
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JUSTICE MINISTRY.

4. EMBASSY HAS RESERVED FOUR SINGLES WITH BATH AT HOTEL
SCANDINAVIA, AND WILL MEET US TEAM ON ARRIVAL.

5. BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN SAID HE WOULD SEND COPIES OF PROPOSED
AGENDA TO FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND FOR POSSIBLE DISCUSSION
WITH SECRETARY WHEN THEY MEET SEPT 30 IN NEW YORK.

6. COMMENT: FORMULATION OF LAST AGENDA ITEM IS BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN'S. HE ADMITTED TOEMBOFF THAT HE WAS UNCERTAIN AS TO HOW MUCH NORWEGIANS COULD DISCUSS THE ALTERNATIVE REGIME ISSUE MENTIONED IN OUR AIDE MEMOIRE. SINCE HIS COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN DISBANDED (OSLO 4739) HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER WHAT NORWEGIANS COULD OFFER AT THIS TIME ON THIS SUBJECT.

7. AS WE NOTED IN OSLO 4739, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT NORWEGIAN RELUCTANCE TO ADDRESS THE CENTRAL QUESTION OF OUR AIDE MEMOIRE AND THE KEY APPROACH TO OUR ALTERNATIVE STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH SVALBARD SHELF ISSUE. AT THIS STAGE WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE THAT FOR REASONS GROWING OUT OF THEIR EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR SOVEREIGNTY, UPCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS, DESIRE TO PROTECT THEIR LEGAL POSITION, OR CONCERN ABOUT THE SOVIET REACTION SHOULD THEY HEAR OF SHELF MANAGMENT TALKS, THE NORWEGIANS SEEM TO HAVE BACKED AWAY FROM DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT. ANDERS

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